

**THE RHODE ISLAND CONVENTION CENTER AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CONVENTION CENTER COMMITTEE MEETING**

April 26, 2011

A meeting of the Convention Center Committee of the Rhode Island Convention Center Authority Board of Commissioners was held on April 26, 2011, pursuant to notice at the Rhode Island Convention Center Boardroom, One Sabin Street, Providence, Rhode Island.

Board members present were Committee Chairman Jeff Hirsh, Dale Venturini, Jason Fowler, Paul MacDonald, David Duffy, Bernie Buonanno and Letitia Carter.

Also in attendance were Jim McCarvill, Betty Sullivan and Kim Keough, RICCA; Tim Muldoon, Arleen Oliva, Deb Tuton, Nancy Beauchamp, Amanda Marzullo and Melissa Masunic, RICC; Cheryl Cohen, Larry Lepore and Jodi Duclos, DDC; Steve Habi, VMA; Michael Nugent, House of Representatives; Bruce Leach, Legal Council and Eileen Smith, recording secretary.

Mr. Hirsh called the meeting to order at 2:08 PM.

Mr. Hirsh noted that our last meeting was in February and that those minutes had been approved at the prior month's Board meeting.

Mr. Hirsh recognized Mr. Muldoon and asked that he address the

Committee. Mr. Muldoon reported that March was flat to last year. Mr. Muldoon noted that parking revenue is down and reflects the difficult economic times. Ms. Venturini asked how attendance was at the Home Show. Mr. Muldoon said that attendance was down slightly although the show organizers were pleased. Mr. MacDonald said that he heard there was a Home Show at Twin River. Mr. Muldoon said that he didn't think the Twin River show had a significant impact. He said that because of the economy people don't have the money for upgrades and improvements. Mr. Muldoon reported that Salt Water Anglers did very well. He noted that when that show began we didn't think it would be a success but it has proven to be a big draw.

Mr. Muldoon was pleased to report that parking for 38 Studios has come through. Mr. Duffy noted that we have been talking to the Procaccianti Group regarding the Fogarty Building regarding the feasibility of additional parking.

Mr. Muldoon reported that the Airwall bids came in under budget for replacement rather than refurbish the old ones. Mr. Muldoon noted that discussion of the Concession stands will take place on Thursday. Looking at the Convention Center's Financial Statement Mr. Buonanno said that he was amazed at what we make on food and beverage. Mr. Duffy asked if prices had been raised. Mr. Muldoon said that prices had not been raised in over a year. Mr. Fowler asked if local produce was being used. Mr. Muldoon noted that whenever possible Kathy buys local produce and soon some of our items will

be grown in our own garden. Mr. Hirsh reported that Ms. Masino will address inventory controls.

Mr. Duffy stated that we are lobbying for renewal and replacement funds. He noted that since the State is no longer required to fund renewal and replacement they have not done so. Mr. McCarvill stated that he would be meeting with Ms. Sullivan, Mr. Lepore and Mr. Muldoon to create a schedule of what was originally mandated.

Discussion ensued regarding the VMAF's diversity festival. Mr. Habl reported that the VMAF is working on a multicultural festival to be held at the VETS on Memorial Day Weekend. He said that the event will focus on the diversity of talent that we are fortunate enough to enjoy in Rhode Island. Mr. Habl noted that he will assist with the festival where needed. Mr. McCarvill said that the festival will be good exposure for the talent and the building.

Mr. Hirsh asked if there was any new business. Hearing none he asked for a motion to adjourn. Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Fowler and seconded by Mr. Duffy it was unanimously

VOTED: to adjourn at 2:30 PM